

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of	)	
	)	
Masaya HASHIMOTO et al.	)	Group Art Unit: Unassigned
	)	
Application No.: Unassigned	)	Examiner: Unassigned
	)	
Filed: July 21, 2003	)	Confirmation No.: Unassigned
	)	
For: DATA PROCESSING APPARATUS,	)	
DATA PROCESSING METHOD	)	
AND IMAGE FORMING	)	
APPARATUS	)	

**FIRST**  
**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby submit the following information in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed.

**U.S. Patent No. 6,381,031 B1 is mentioned in the specification.**

The documents are being submitted within three (3) months of the filing or entry of the national stage of this application or before the first Office Action on the merits, whichever is later, therefore under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) no fee or statement is required.

To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner-initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: July 21, 2003

By: 

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Substitute for forms 1449A/PTO & 1449B/PTO	ATTORNEY'S DKT No.	APPLICATION No.
	032567-018	Unassigned
	APPLICANT	
	Masaya HASHIMOTO et al.	
<b>FIRST INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>	FILING DATE	GROUP
	July 21, 2003	Unassigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS				
Examiner Initials	Document Number	Kind Code (if known)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Issue/Publication Date (MM-DD-YYYY)
	*6,381,031	B1	Mishima	04-30-2002

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Document Number	Kind Code (if known)	Country	Date of Publication (MM-DD-YYYY)	Translation Yes No	
	2000-318229		Japan	11-21-2000	Abst	
	9-298652		Japan	11-18-1997	Abst	
	9-219782		Japan	08-19-1997	Abst	
	8-98034		Japan	04-12-1996	Abst	
	6-44013		Japan	02-18-1994	Abst	

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS	
Examiner Initials	Include name of author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. § 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

\*Also mentioned in the specification.